

In re: Michael J. Collins et al.
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REMARKS

This is in response to the final Official Action mailed January 10, 2006. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Solely to advance prosecution of this matter, and without prejudice or disclaimer of any rights available to Applicants, including any scope of protection available under the doctrine of equivalents, Applicants present claim 14 in independent form. The remaining claims have been cancelled and will be subject of a continuation application.

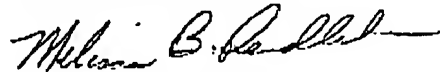
The amendment does not raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner and further places this application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and further request that the Office pass the claim to allowance at the earliest possible date. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at her convenience.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under

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37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0332.

Respectfully submitted,



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